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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5812
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1014
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 1655
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SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, INR/EAP, EAP/MLS, DS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [KISL](#) [ASEC](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: FACING ISLAMIST PROTESTERS, MISS UNIVERSE AND
ENTOURAGE CUT TRIP SHORT

1. (U) This message is Sensitive but Unclassified -- Please handle accordingly.

2. (U) The reigning Miss Universe, Japanese national Riyo Mori, recently visited Indonesia on a promotional tour. After visiting Jakarta and making several planned stops at venues in Bandung, West Java, she and her entourage were forced to cut short their trip to the city on August 10 because of Islamist students who were holding a rowdy public protest. The students asserted that the Miss Universe contest was "immoral" and "against Islamic values." Concerned about the protest, Mori canceled the rest of the Bandung program and left Indonesia the next day.

3. (SBU) The actual rally in Bandung was relatively small. Less than 100 protesters turned out in front of Mori's hotel, most of them affiliated with a group called the "Anti-Pornography and Anti-Porno Action Alliance." The alliance includes the militant Islamic Defenders' Front (FPI), the Islamic Youth Movement (GPI), and the Muslim Students Action Union (KAMMI), a student organization closely associated with the Islamist Prosperous Justice Party (PKS). Police outnumbered protesters and there were no reports of violence or arrests. According to Azfuari Azis, who helped arrange Mori's trip on behalf of the Indonesian pageant, the protestors carried signs demanding that Indonesia ban pornography and one banner -- echoing Sukarno's infamous rejection of U.S. aid in 1963 -- stated a not particularly catchy: "Go to Hell Miss Universe." He noted that while Mori was never under any threat of violence, organizers thought it best to cut her tour of Indonesia short.

4. (SBU) FPI and Allies Still Active: After effective police action, the FPI's freedom of maneuver has gone down over the years from the time when it used to launch local "sweeps" meant to intimidate foreigners and force them to leave Indonesia. The treatment accorded Miss Universe, however, while rare (though also experienced by the publishers of the Indonesian edition of "Playboy"), serves as a reminder that the FPI and its allies are still active.

HUME